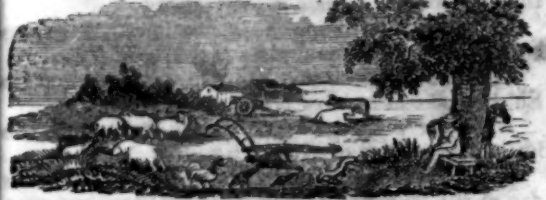


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MAINE FARMER.



"Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man."

Premium List of Kennebec Co. Ag. Society.

Those of our readers who feel interested in this subject, have undoubtedly examined the list of the Society, as published by the Trustees in our last number.

We are not often disposed to be captious or find fault with those who are as faithful to their duties as the trustees have been, but we must nevertheless express our regrets that the complaints and murmurs of the past in regard to premiums on stock, had not induced them to have changed the course of their procedure, with a view to obviate these difficulties.

Why was there not a classification of breeds and varieties made?

Let us examine the list a little. The trustees offer a premium "for the best bull," second best, and so on. In former times, when farmers paid but little attention to different breeds, and many of them scarcely knew that there was any other breed in the world than that they saw about them, this general offer was sufficient. But there is a different state of things now. Different breeds have been introduced at great expense. Men have their partialities for this or that breed, and very believe that the one which they have is "the best." How then can it be otherwise, when an offer is made to give a premium for the best, that the farmer who raises Durhams will feel himself aggrieved if he does not receive it? The farmer who breeds Herefords will claim it also. The friend of the Devonshire will be sure to think it must be given to him, and the breeder of Ayrshires will feel aggrieved if he does not receive it. Now, it will require but a very little knowledge of human nature to see that the premium will be given according to prejudices of the majority of the committee for one breed or the other, and it requires but to be at one cattle show to learn that such decision will make disturbance in the minds of the friends of the other breeds.

It would have been a very easy matter to have classified the list, and given offers for the best Durham—best Hereford—best Native, &c.

The same trouble exists in regard to the offer on sheep, and even more so, because there are more different breeds among us than of cattle.

The trustees say, for the "best flock of Merino ewes," diploma, &c., &c., and then make an offer as follows: for the "best flock of ewes of any other breed or any cross." Well, if here is not a wide door opened for contention, we cannot guess of the future by any experience of the past. Let us peep through the curtain that hangs before the next cattle show. The committee on sheep are men of judgment and experience, but are all, if we mistake not, breeders of Merino sheep. They go forth to their duty. The first offer is for Merino sheep. This is definite and plain, and, being well versed in the qualities of this breed, they can soon make up a just verdict. But then comes the next offer, in as general terms as could well be used, "for the best of any other breed or cross," and that comprehends all the breeds, sorts, kinds and varieties under heaven. If the committee wouldn't be in a "fix," we know nothing about the perplexities of being on a committee, and we think we have been there some. We have the Saxon among us—we have the Dishley—we have the Leicester—we have the Cotswold—we have the South Down—we have crosses and varieties innumerable, and from this countless host of breeds and crosses the committee are to select one for the purpose of giving a solitary premium, and the rest are to be turned away unnoticed, or perhaps "damned with faint praise," and the friends and breeders of them left to grumble and complain of the partiality and nigardliness in conducting the affairs of the Society and in the distribution of the funds of the Society.

Wouldn't it have been very easy for the trustees to have classified the sheep and offered suitable premiums? Certainly it would. But we shall probably be met with the following answer:—We haven't funds enough to satisfy breeders of many kinds. This brings us to another mistake of the Trustees, and one which has been continued from year to year. Some years ago the Society voted to obtain diplomas, to be distributed as testimonials of merit in breeding different animals, or skill in other branches of industry. We know who was instrumental in bringing about this, and who had to perform the labor of getting it done, and can therefore speak of the intentions. It was designed as a species of premium, to be given in such way and manner as to obviate the lack of cash premiums. Have they ever been given so? Instead of that a diploma has always been coupled with a little cash, and probably just as much cash as if the diploma had not been in existence.

Now, with all due deference, and as Barney Bidley said, "all shamefacedness" before our superiors, we would ask, why is this? Why not offer your money as long as it will last, and then your medals, if any you have, and then your diplomas? Or, if we were left to us, we would reverse the position, and put the medals and diplomas first, and then the money, as an inferior premium—for although we can't get along without cash, yet as a premium, as an evidence of having done well in breeding stock, or in raising a crop, or in manufacturing, it is the very poorest thing that can be used. It is soon spent, and the fact of your having had a premium for this

MAINE FARMER.

A Family Paper; Devoted to Agriculture, Mechanic Arts, General Intelligence, &c.

VOL. XIII.

AUGUSTA, THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 1845.

NO. 24.

The Bee Moth.

The bee moth (*Galleria cerasana*) in most parts of the United States is a very destructive to bees, whilst in other sections it is not known. It is supposed to have been imported from Europe with bees. This moth in its perfect state resembles some of the varieties of millers that are often flying into a light on a warm summer evening. It is usually less than three-fourths of an inch in length.

The female is larger than the male. They lay their eggs from the latter part of April to the close of August. In the evening they are active and lay their eggs; and in day lie quiet in cracks and crevices of the hive and bee house. If a hive be not well guarded they will enter it and deposit their eggs in joints or cracks of the hive, where the young worm on being hatched finds a supply of wax which is its natural food. When the moth cannot gain access to the inside, she lays her eggs on the outside in the cracks or joints, and when the worm is hatched he eats his way through wax, or under the edge of the hive to the inside, and there he takes up his residence, and lives on the comb. He throws around him a web, or silken tube, which protects him from the bees, and he moves about among the comb, carrying destruction in his course, filling the hive with webs and filth.

The bees become discouraged from the constant encroachments of an enemy against whom they have no means of defence or offence. These worms or caterpillars in about 20 days from hatching attain their full size, which is about an inch in length. Then like the silk worm they spin their silken cocoon. They then change to the chrysalis state, and in a few weeks come forth in the perfect or final state, as moths or millers. Those which come out late, remain in the hive in the chrysalis state during the winter, and come forth perfect animals in the spring.

Remedies.—Various are the remedies and the modes of protection that have been offered; but few of which, if any, have proved effectual against this most formidable enemy of a useful insect, a gatherer of the sweet produce of nature for the use of man. The only animal, as we lately observed, that furnishes itself with its own sustenance, and some to spare for our benefit. It well deserves every means that we can possibly devise for its protection.

Many hives have been invented and patented, claiming to protect bees against the moth, but they generally fail. We have used as a preventive common whitewash of lime, with plenty of fine salt in it. Early in spring we put this on the bottom board, after cleansing it, and on the lower edge of the hive, and on the inside of the hive up to the comb. It should be used occasionally in the summer, and plentifully too, on the lower edge of the hive and on the board. This is grateful to the bees, and conducive to their health; it is a remedy for diseases, particularly for diarrhoea. We have never been troubled with the moth, which we have attributed to the free use of the whitewash, for in this case the young worms are supplied with salt and lime, instead of wax for food.

A gentleman who paid much attention to bees said that he prevented the depredations of the moth by making a small channel in the board just inside the door, filling up the interior with liquid from the blue pot, which term will be understood by old farmers. He said this was pleasant to the bees, and no miller would cross it.

Moths are often caught by hundreds in the evening, by setting around the hives sweetened vinegar in white dishes. Honey and water, made weak, is also recommended for this purpose. It is stated in a Western paper that an apiarian has used whey for this purpose, for three years, with excellent success. These dishes should be used during the active season of the bees, and placed at nightfall, and removed or covered, early in the morning.

If any of our readers know of a good protection against the bee moth, we should be pleased to hear from them.—[Boston Cult.]

BONES AND FISH FOR MANURE.—We have received from Mr. Wm. Mariner, an Address delivered before the Middlesex (Ct.) Agricultural Society, by E. A. Elliott, Esq. In this address, Mr. E. speaks of the effects of bones and of fish as manure. He states that the bonedust has been applied in his neighborhood with good results, to corn, rye, oats, and other crops. A good application of 30 bushels per acre to a portion of a ryefield, produced a difference of nearly one half in the yield, the field being alike in other respects.

In the neighborhood of Mr. E.'s residence, large quantities of "white fish" are taken, and frequently used as manure. This application of fish was commenced, he says, in that neighborhood, about the year 1760. The effects were great—barren plains, which had been long unproductive, were converted into the most fruitful fields. Their lands were enriched upon all soils, and for a number of years; while they were taken in large quantities, they were relied upon for the rye, corn, and particularly the potato and turnip crops, to the exclusion of almost all other kinds of manure. It was found however, that their effect upon a second application, was not as great as upon the first, and still less upon a third, and this led many to doubt their utility as a constant dressing for all kinds of crops, and especially upon sandy soils, without an intervening application of some vegetable matter of the soil, and leave it in a compact and unproductive state. Their effect has continued to be great upon strong rocky loam and clay or moist lands; upon such lands they produce as large crops as can be found in the fertile regions of our western country. Their effect is visible on sandy soils for two or three years, and longer upon loam and clay. The usual mode of applying them, is to spread them, and after a few days harrow and plow them in with a light furrow. Some persons stack them with yard manure, or earth and turf, and think their effect almost increased in proportion to the extra labor of stacking and carting out.—[Albany Cult.]

A Self-supporting, Confined Arch Bridge.—We were the other day called to examine the model of a bridge, invented by Mr. Gay, of Chili. The span of the bridge is to be 250 feet. The arch cords are so constructed as to cause any weight put upon it to bear equally upon every part of the bridge. For instance, a weight placed on one end of it would be equally sustained by the other end, and not cause the part upon which there is no weight to rise up from the force of pressure on the opposite extreme, as in the case with some bridges. Here is a decided advantage gained, adding materially to the strength of the bridge and giving it a preference above all others we have seen. The timbers are brought together, and the joints made simply solid by tension rods or screws, which can be screwed up at any time when a shrinkage of the timbers render it necessary. In short, there is not an idle timber in the bridge. All are made to perform their respective parts in conjunction with each other.—[Rochester Advertiser.]

Science of Mowing.

GENTLEMEN.—Having long since promised you an article on the science of mowing, I now sit down to redeem my promise.

It was my good fortune—for so I regard it—to have had a few years' experience in early life as a practical farmer; and as I advanced from boyhood, I remember among other things my first effort and ultimate success in the science of mowing. For a time, I had much difficulty in keeping my scythe sharp. This, however, I found indispensable; no man can approach anything like an easy or a good mower, without it.

I had become a good mower, when I fell in company with not only a good mower, but a scientific one; and after the second or third day, finding I could not keep up with him without doing myself an injury, and painful as it was for me to do so, I was ambitious, yet I was constrained to call my friend to a stand, in the midst of my wrath. I said, "Mr. Pickett, for that was his name) if you know anything which you can communicate to me of the skill of mowing, I beg you to do so, for I am exhausted, and I may as well confess at once that I cannot keep up with you."

He stopped, came back, took my scythe, and explained to me the main governing principles. I adopted them; and in less than one hour, I could keep up with perfect ease. Indeed, I had at least 20 per cent more physical strength than he had. It was science alone which enabled him to lead me to the extreme.

During the following summer, I came in contact with about a dozen good mowers, and I may say some three or four of them professed fast mowers. I adhered strictly to the science I had learned the preceding summer, (my Professor not being present.) I could lead the field with great ease, but I kept the secret to myself. I could corner half a dozen men from morning until noon. Indeed, I had two trials of speed, the first with a man who came from the field about midsummer, incautiously boasting of his ability to out-mow any man that could be found; (his name was Anderson.) There were five of us to go into the field—not a word said except by Mr. Anderson. We entered the field—I took as I had been accustomed to do) the first swath, Mr. Anderson the next. I proceeded to the first corner, sharpened my scythe, and found Mr. Anderson and the other men far enough off to pass them.

I went to the second corner, and again sharpened my scythe—Mr. Anderson and the other men still under way. I said to myself, if my freshman may not like to see me go on so rapidly; and I employed my time in cutting out the corners of the fence. I then sharpened my scythe again; Mr. Anderson having arrived at the second corner, in advance of the other men. I said to him, "perhaps you would like to go forward." He said, "yes," and I pointed out, with the expression that I thought it would embrace as much as we could cut by dinner time, Mr. A. said "very well," and went on; I followed, and the other three men followed me. I followed close up, until I saw a little uneasiness; I then made a miss clip, and rested on my scythe, snail until he got some 20 feet ahead—then followed on, soon placing him in the same position again; then another miss-clip, and a rest about the same time, when I proceeded in like manner, showing him about 5 or 6 rests, before he reached the tree pointed out. We then sharpened our scythes, and I took the first swath, to the fourth corner, (the place of beginning.) Mr. A. came next, and the other men still back. After sharpening my scythe, I saw Mr. A. had about 200 feet more to mow, before he came up. I went on, and when about two-thirds of the way through, Mr. A. one-third, and the other men just commencing. I heard the voice of Mr. Anderson, crying at the top of his lungs, that he could mow as much as any man, and that he would be in the lot, or I should, before night. I said to myself, keep quiet; you shall not see me fluster much; I recollected Mr. Pickett, and all the improvements I could possibly adopt, to his science. Not a word said on my part, but I took good care not to lose an inch. I passed the second corner, without stopping to sharpen my scythe, or looking round; came up to the third corner, sharpened my scythe, and went on until I reached the other men, and so continued after Mr. Anderson until I overtook him at the same corner where I had left him, making three times round, on my part, to his twice; my scythe being sharpened (at the same time) I said, "Mr. Anderson, I believe it is my turn to go forward." He smiled, and said "yes." I went forward, and cut all the corners until the piece was completed. Mr. A. was as quiet as a jaded horse.

The next trial was with a company of 7 or 8 men. We went into a very large field of 20 or 30 acres. I took the lead, went round a piece, cut all the corners, got on the opposite side, and about 11 o'clock two of the most ambitious men left their swathes, walked across the standing grass, and set in behind me; they were distanced! beaten every way! and solely on account of the art I learned (from necessity) of Mr. Samuel Pickett, of Sandersfield, Mass.

And now for the art! I will try to describe it; not as the inventor, but as it is remembered, but as the successful practitioner under it.

1st. The scythe should hang natural and easy, and as I have said before, it must be kept in first rate order.

2d. As you approach the standing grass, let the heel of the scythe move to the very point of commencement, and let it stop the instant it has done its work, and let it move on again as fast as you can to edit of mowing on, measure the utmost capacity forward of your scythe, take a quick easy gait, moving your right foot well up towards the standing grass, and your body with it, though leaning back, by bending the knees a little forward, so as to bring your whole weight to bear upon the scythe, without twisting the body from right to left, (as many do) thus giving ease to each clip, and ability to repeat in an advanced position, without fatigue.

NOTE. If you swing 6 inches too far back, and 6 inches too far in pointing out, it makes 24 inches less! Then apply the same strength to a scientific forward motion, and you will find it difficult for ordinary mowers to keep up.

JOHN R. PICKETT.

Woodville, L. I., May, 1845.

(N. Y. Farmer and Mechanic.)

DEPTH OF ROOTS.—In light subsoils, the roots of trees have been found at a depth of 10 or 12 feet. The roots of the Canada thistle have been traced 6 or 7 feet below the surface. Wheat, in a rich mellow soil, will strike roots 3 feet downwards, and much further horizontally. The roots of oaks have been discovered 18 inches from the stem, and the long thread-like roots of grass, still further. The fine roots of the onion, being white, and easily traced in roots of the potato, have in trenched soil been followed two feet deep. The importance of a mellow soil for these fine roots to penetrate is obvious.

Success to the Plow.

A song written expressly for and sung by Mr. Reuben Cherram, at the annual Dinner of the Sussex Society, Brighton, on Thursday, Jan. 23, 1845.

TENX.—"The Brave Old Oak."
Here's to the plow!—success to the plow!
Who has reigned since the world began.
He's covered with Time—he gladdens every clime—
And enters for the family god-damn.
He works to provide, as the seasons glide,
For the wants of his countless horde;
And joys o'er his post in that golden hour
When the fruits of his toil are stored.

CHORUS.
Then success to the plow—the mighty plow—
Who gives health and life to all!
And shame to the heathens, who by base acts,
Are now struggling for its fall!

How mother earth laughs, as his kisses she quaffs,
When she presents to him her bright green face;
How he revels in her charms, as she opens her arms,
And hugs him in her warm embrace!
And the seeds forth at once glorious birth,
A progeny so vast and good!
That the mountains rejoice—the rocks find a voice—
And all nature hails with rapture the brood.

Then success to the plow, &c.
He's strong as the hills and fears not the ill,
The weak Famine would heap on his head;
He's secure as the stars, for "the Staff of Life"
Heaven's fruit is his only bread.
Then hasten the day, when the sacred hymn
In joyful strains shall appear—
When the words and the deed the plowshare shall yield,
And the pruning-hook shall spring from the spear.
Then success to the plow, &c.

NATURAL SCIENCE.—Every possible facility should be provided for the study of every branch of natural history, for every branch of natural history may be made subservient to agricultural improvement. There is, in my opinion, nothing which so invigorates and strengthens the mind as earnest and deep inquiries into nature, the study of natural facts, the observation of natural phenomena. There is no knowledge, especially to persons residing in the country, which affords so many practical uses, and such varied and important applications. The man who studies books exclusively is always liable to be the slave of other men's opinions; and his mind, losing by such restraints its native elasticity, never travels out of its prescribed limits. The man who goes himself to the original sources of knowledge, and draws water out of the very wells of life, acquires a force of enquiry, maintains a healthful freshness of mind, which grow strong continually sources of knowledge, turn every object and occurrence which they meet with into an instrument of instruction, and find the world and nature no longer a dull, desolate, inanimate chamber, but its walls all over radiant with lessons of wisdom, and every object with which it is crowded, vocal with the teachings of a divine spirit.

I do not overrate the value of natural science to the agriculturist, the resident in the country. For him it is the proper study for use, for ability, for recreation, and for ornament. There is yet much to be done in agriculture. I believe that the quantity of the products of the earth from the same extent of surface may in most cases be quadrupled, and that the number of its productions for the sustenance of man and beast may be multiplied far beyond any present calculation. If we may argue from what has been done to what may be done, the perfection of agriculture is yet very distant, and the improvements remain to be made. But this can only be effected by bringing vigorous and enlightened minds to bear upon the subject; and the natural sciences are those which of all others best prepare and strengthen the mind for such investigations. The best education which can be given to any man, is not that which merely communicates knowledge, but that which enables and induces a man to acquire knowledge for himself. This is what the study of the natural sciences particularly prompt and compel a man to do. These studies pursued especially in the country, where Nature in such a variety of aspects is continually offering herself for examination, give a vigor and activity of mind which particularly qualify men for practical occupations and pursuits.

We are to look, then, to educated men, to men of active and cultivated minds, to men accustomed to study, inquiry, reflection, observation, and experience, for any great improvement yet to be made in agriculture. These are the men who have always been the pioneers in human progress, and these men are still to lead the onward march. A school, therefore, which trains such minds, not for literary leisure, but for the active and business pursuits of life, must be regarded as one of the most valuable institutions in the community. No branch of art or business will be found to afford greater scope for the application of such an education, than agriculture.—[Colman's European Agriculture.]

CULTURE OF ROOTS.—A communication made to the Philadelphia Agricultural Society by James Gowen, gives the following statement of the result of one year's culture of roots, and also of his views of the advantages to be derived in feeding them to cattle:—

From five and a half acres of land, I have—
Sugar beets 972 bushels.
Sugar parsnips 350 "
Carrots 495 "
Turnips 2500 "

Making 4317 bushels—allowing 60 lbs to the bushel, in round numbers, one hundred and fifteen tons of wholesome, juicy food.
For years I have urged upon our farmers in this neighborhood, the turning of their attention to roots, and have for the same point demonstrated their utility by practical results. It is a reproach, indeed a serious affliction, that so much of the milk served to the city, is produced from such feed as is procured at the distilleries and breweries. Such trash is unnatural to the habits and functions of cattle. Cattle thus fed, become diseased—their secretions are impure—of which the citizens are not aware, and seldom inspect, or inquire into the state of the dairy, whence they obtain their supplies. But let me refer to the quality. Milk with them in milk, if it be not a shade darker than blue, and thus, through carelessness, or an ill-directed economy, they are found administering to their children daily, a vitiated fluid, strongly impregnated with deleterious matters. Let any one compare a cup of milk taken from a cow fed in winter on her natural food—roots or well cured grass—compare that with that taken from an animal whose secretions are excreted by the fermented and filthy slops of a distillery or brew house, and he will find as much difference as there is between a glass of bad cider and pure wine.

In the spirit of improvement and kindness, I would invite those who feed from distilleries and breweries to look at this statement, and calculate whether it would not be even cheaper to cultivate two or three acres of roots for winter food, than to use that which must impair the health and constitution of their cattle.

Mechanic Arts, &c.

Lord Rosse's Telescope.

The last number of the British Review contains a full account of the extraordinary telescope recently constructed by Lord Rosse, of Ireland, which is said to transcend in magnitude and power all previous instruments, whether they were the result of private wealth or of royal or national munificence. Some idea of this magnificent instrument may be conceived from the fact that the speculum or metallic reflection is six feet in diameter and weighing nearly four tons. The focal length is 53 feet. The speculum rests upon a surface of twenty-seven pieces of cast iron, of equal area, and strongly framed so as to be stiff and light. The frame which contains the speculum is attached to an immense joint like that of a pair of compasses moving round a pin in order to give the transit on ice for following the star in right ascension. This pin is fixed to the centre piece between two trunnions, like those of an enormous mortar lying east and west, and upon which the telescope has its motion in altitude. To the frame there is fastened a large cubical wooden box, about eight feet in side, in which two men go in to rectify or replace the cover of the mirror. To this box is fastened the tube, which is made of deal staves hooped like a huge cask. It is about 40 feet long, and 8 feet diameter in the middle, and is furnished with internal diaphragms about 6-1/2 feet in aperture. The Dean of Ely walked through the tube with an umbrella up!

Dr. Robinson, a celebrated British astronomer, in alluding to the wonderful magnifying power of his instrument says, "It is scarcely possible to preserve the necessary sobriety of language, in speaking of the man's appearance with this instrument, which discovers multitude of new objects at every point of its surface; resolving nebula into stars, and destroying that symmetry of form in globular nebulae, upon which was founded the hypothesis of the gradual condensation of nebulous matter into suns and planets."

We subjoin the following interesting remarks from the Review:—

In looking back upon what the telescope has accomplished—in reckoning the thousands of celestial bodies which have been detected and surveyed—in reflecting on the vast depths of ether which have been sounded, and on the extension of the ladder of matter out of which worlds and systems of worlds are forming and to be formed—can we doubt it to be the Divine plan that man shall yet discover the whole scheme of the visible universe, and that it is his individual duty as well as the high prerogative of his order, to expound its mysteries, and to develop its laws? Over the invisible world he has received no commission to reign, and into its secrets he has no authority to pry. It is over the material and the visible that he has to sway the intellectual sceptre—it is among the structures of organic and inorganic life that his functions of combination and analysis are to be chiefly exercised. Nor is this a task unworthy of his genius, or unconnected with his destiny. Placed upon a globe already formed, and constituting part of a system already complete, he can scarcely trace either in the solid masses around him, or in the forms and movements of the planet, any of the secondary causes by which these bodies have been shaped and launched on their journey. But in the distant heavens, where creation seems to be ever active, where vast distances give us the vision of huge magnitudes, and where extended operations are actually going on, we may study the cosmogony of our own system, and mark, even during the brief span of human life, the formation of a planet in the consolidation of the nebulous mass which surrounds it.

Such is the knowledge which man has yet to acquire—such the lesson which he has to teach his species. How much to be prized in the intellectual faculty by which such a work is to be performed—how wonderful the process by which the human brain, in its basket of bones, can alone establish such remote and transcendent truths. A soul so capacious, and ordained for such an enterprise, cannot be otherwise than immortal.

But even when all these mysteries shall be revealed, the mind will still wrestle with eager curiosity to learn the final destiny of such glorious creations. The past and the present furnish some grounds of anticipation. Revelation throws in some faint tones of its light—but it is in the indications of science chiefly—in the realm of mechanical laws—that we are like to find any firm elements for our judgment. In the creation around and near us all is change and decomposition. The solid globe, once incandescent and scarcely cooled has been the theatre of recurring convulsions, by which everything has been destroyed, and after which everything has been renewed. Animal life in its various organizations has perished, and written its epitaph upon imperishable monuments. Man, too, though never extinct as a race, returns one by one to his clay, and his intellectual functions are perpetuated in the re-production of his fellow. In the solar system we see fragments of planets—asteroids, as they have been called—occupying, in almost interminable orbits, the place of a larger body, and in the direction and amount of the animal and diurnal motions of the primary and secondary planets, we recognize the result of a grand creative movement, by which the sun, with its widely-extended atmosphere, or a revolving atmosphere itself, has cast off, by successive throes, the various bodies of the system, at first circling in gaseous clouds, but subsequently contracted into planets and a sun.

This system so wonderfully formed, is again enshrouded with another more distant by an assemblage of comets—a class of bodies which doubles carry on some reciprocal intercourse with the planets. Composed of nebulous matter, they may yet be consolidated into habitable globes; in recombining in aspect the vast nebulae which fill the etherial spaces, and forming a part of our own system, they contemplate the theory, that the nebulae which the telescope cannot resolve may be the pebbles out of which heat and motion are to form new systems, where planets, thrown off from a central nucleus, will form new abodes of life and intelligence.

But while all the phenomena in the heavens indicate a law of progressive creation, in which revolving matter is distributed into suns and planets, there are indications in our own system, that a period has been assigned for its duration, which, sooner or later, it must reach. The medium which fills universal space—whether it be a luminiferous ether, or arise from the indefinite expansion of planetary atmospheres—must retard the bodies which move in it, even though it were 300,000 millions of times more rare than atmospheric air; and, with its time of revolution gradually shortening, the satellite must return to its planet, the planet to its sun, and the sun to its primeval nebula.

The fate of our system, thus deduced from mechanical laws, must be the fate of all others. Motion cannot be perpetuated in a resisting medium, and where there is disturbing forces, there must be great derangement, and ultimately ruin. From the great central mass, heat may again be summoned to exalt nebulous matter—chemical forces may produce motion, and motion may again generate systems—as in the recurring catastrophes which have desolated our earth, the great First Cause must preside at the dawn of each cosmic circle—and as in the animal races which were successively reproduced, new celestial creations, of a nobler form of beauty, and a higher order of permanence, may appear in the solar universe. "Behold, I create new heavens, and a new earth, and the former shall not be remembered." "The new heavens and the new earth shall remain before me." Let us look, then, according to his promise, for the "new heavens and the new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness."

A NEW MACHINE.—Mr. Thomas Miles, of Somerset, Ohio, has invented and patented a machine for stuffing horse collars, by which means it is said, that one man can do the work which five men could in the ordinary way, and do it in a much better manner.

Restorative Fires in Portland.

About nine o'clock, on Monday evening, (2nd), a fire broke out on the southerly side of Free St., in the carpenter's shop in the rear of a dwelling house, just erected and owned by Rev. Adam Wilson and by a Mr. Curtis. The fire communicated immediately to the building which was hardly completed, and had much light stuff in it, and burned very fiercely.

The wind was about South West; the flames were driven by the wind on the dwelling house next below, owned and occupied by Michael Stevens, which was destroyed. Here Free Street is intersected by Oak street, which Mr. Stevens' house stood, it took the house occupied by Mr. Aitchison, and also owned by Michael Stevens. This house was reduced to a mere shell. There being no building adjacent, the flames were stayed. Furniture from several of these houses was saved. The dwelling house of Rufus Reed, contiguous to the new house, toward High street, was also destroyed. He was insured \$800 by the Portland Mutual Company.

Mr. Stevens, who is sorry to hear, had no insurance on his house.

Loss of property probably \$7,000.

Our citizens were aroused again on Wednesday night at 12 o'clock, by the cry of fire—this proved to be in Plum street, in the carpenter's shop of Messrs. Larrabee & Cleaves. The building was owned by Capt. Thomas McLellan, and was destroyed.

The occupants had a good deal of work, finished and unfinished, in the building, and most of their tools—all which were destroyed.

The fire was stopped where it originated, but considerably scorched Mr. Reuben Mitchell's house opposite—and it would have destroyed it, but for the large elm in front.

There seems to be no doubt, that the fire was the work of an incendiary—as there had been no fire in the building for some time.

On Friday evening last, the alarm was again sounded, which proved to be from Federal street, near India, in the barn of Mr. Wm. H. Furrington, in the rear of the house.

The house was occupied by Mr. Geo. Coe. The barn was combustible, and made a great blaze. The engines were soon on the ground, and it was extinguished, without further conflagration. It seems to have been the work of an incendiary. A suspicious looking fellow was seen lurking about in the adjacent yard, but an hour before, but by some neglect he was not noticed.

A serious accident occurred, also. An engine run over Thomas Richardson, a young man, the son of Mr. Josiah Richardson, and injured him seriously.—[Argus.]

GREAT FIRE.—About half past twelve o'clock on Saturday night, some mischievous scoundrel was setting fire to the stables of the Palms, and Peters of the omnibus line, at the corner of Eighteenth street and Seventh avenue. The watchman pursued the incendiary; but stumbled over a fireman in the pursuit, and thus the villain escaped. In a few minutes the stables presented a sheet of flames, and the fire communicated to the surrounding buildings. Not less than one hundred houses, including several valuable brick buildings on 15th, 16th, and 17th streets, were burnt to the ground.—Four hundred families, and not less than 5000 men, women, and children, have thus been turned out of house and home, losing all their furniture, and many of them left utterly destitute. The scene, yesterday, beggared description. Twenty-five carcasses of horses lay smoking amid the ruins of the stables. The vats of a soap manufactory, which was destroyed, sent up a horrible stench.

(N. Y. True Sun.)

Large Fire in Cambridge.—An incendiary fire was set about 2 o'clock this morning, between the carpenter's shops of Stickney & Winn, and Ebenezer Frances, in the rear of the Charles River Bank, and near the Colleges, in Cambridge, which were soon in a blaze.

The fire extended to the carpenter's shop of Mr. Caldwell, which was also entirely destroyed. From thence the fire caught in the Athenaeum building belonging to the College, which was also destroyed by its contents. Among them was the beautiful painting by Allston, of the Panorama of Athens, on which that artist was engaged for 10 years. It has been valued at \$20,000!

The fire next extended to the dwelling house occupied by Mr. W. Mills, and owned by the College Corporation, which was also destroyed—part of the furniture saved.—[Bee.]

ROBBERY.—The store of Ward, in Montague, was broken open on Friday night last, and a small quantity of goods and money taken therefrom. A negro was suspected and pursued was immediately made. He was followed to Hinsdale and from thence to the State line, where he was arrested and returned to the hotel Mr. Tuttle, in Hinsdale. An examination was here made, and the goods and a part of the money found. The examination was succeeded by daring thefts and thievery. He was lashed in bed with a chain. During the night he broke the lock of the chain and made his escape from a window. He was heard and followed, but from the darkness of the night he eluded his pursuers. His clothes were taken from him by the officers when he left the room, and of course his escape was in a state of nudity. He broke into the first house he came to, and obtained an overcoat. He was a tailor's shop, where he fitted himself up in good style and fashion with a broadcloth suit. The last our informant heard of him was in Windsor, traveling with a knife in his belt, and a pocket in the other. The fellow is a full blooded black about six feet high.—[Northampton Courier.]

CONVICTS RETURNED. The Montreal papers announce the arrival of David Gagne, Joseph Gogot, Etienne (Stephen) L'Anglais, and Jean Morisset, who took part in the rebellion, and were sent to Van Dieman's Land in 1837. They left their place of banishment in December. The Minister says:—

"Morisset was not in company with the other Canadians at Sydney, but belonged to a party of convicts who were landed in New South Wales, and these last are reported to have been cruelly ill-treated during their captivity. Morisset did not take his passage home with the others; they did not meet until they reached Whitehall, and their surprise was great, as they had never seen each other since their separation near Buffalo. The remainder of the exiles at Sydney were well; some had the means of returning, but were waiting for their companions in misfortune. It is said that pecuniary assistance has been forwarded to them, and that there is no doubt that they are all on their passage home."

AN OPERATIVE. Last evening, a female aged about forty-five, came into our office to purchase a paper. She informed us that she had been an operative in the Lowell mills nineteen years, and that her health had been good all the time. She said, "my health is better now than it was when I first began to work in the mill." She had, during the time, saved about \$2000, which she had safely invested, in the purchase of a farm; and, besides, she had given her parents, who were poor, \$1500. She had been married, and had one son who was now absent. Her name was Mrs. Clark. She had worked several years in the Boot Mills, and is now about to commence work on the Massachusetts.—Her industry, economy, and contentment, deserve the highest praise.

We cut the above paragraph from the Lowell Courier, and it may be well enough for us to append it to it, as it is one of the new houses now going up near the centre of this town is owned by two young women, who work in one of our mills, and the other that, on the subscription paper for a new mill, circulating yesterday forenoon, we saw the names of several manufacturing operatives, prudent, industrious, and calculating men, put down for one or two shares, of \$500 each.

(Newburyport Herald.)

The Great Fire at Quebec.

The Quebec Mercury gives further particulars of the fire in that city, as follows:—

After the fire broke out, the wind gradually freshened, from the west, (with a cooling storm), and it was soon evident that all human endeavor to arrest the progress of the fire in a localised, would be useless; an impression but too fatally verified. Onwards, and onwards, and onwards swept the flames; street after street fell before them. A species of whirlwind seemed to aid its fatal advances; for, in advance, in the rear, on every side, the raging element developed itself with momentarily increasing fury. Spots that at the shrieking and alighted refugees were now apparently safe, in a few minutes subsequent were "trapped in a vast sheet of flame."

From eleven in the morning until midnight this dread fire held uninterrupted sway, until its career was arrested in St. Charles street—nearly one mile from the place of its outbreak!—at the broadest point, the breadth of the burnt district is about one-third of a mile.

Between 1500 and 2000 houses are supposed to have been consumed, and it is calculated that 12,000 persons (one-third of the population) are this day homeless! Most of these people have lost their all; the rapid advance, and sudden catastrophic destruction, taken by the flames, not only rendering it impossible to save any portion of the property in the dwellings, but in a vast number of instances barely allowing the inmates sufficient time to escape living.

The church in St. Roch's is in ashes. The convent is saved. St. Peter's chapel is also burned. A young lady, the daughter of Messrs. Floyd & Pepper, and McCallum are consumed, and the line of wharves from Munn's to the foot of High Hill. On these were an immense quantity of deals, which were all consumed.

At this point the fire was arrested by throwing down the pine and oak, and on the town side by blowing up two houses. This operation was conducted by Lieut. Col. Wardle of the Royal Engineers, and some of the officers and men under his command.

Various rumors are afloat as to the number of lives lost. We have seen several crumpled and mutilated remains. Of these, two were mothers, with their infants clasped to their bosoms. It is feared that many victims, as yet unknown, will soon be discovered.

In the Upper Town, several houses were on fire. The artillery barracks was three times in danger, as also several private dwellings.

A meeting was convened last evening, and the bakers ordered to commence the supply necessary for the relief of those distressed. This day relief was extended to about three thousand.

At an adjourned meeting, we are informed that the extremely handsome sum of upwards of \$33,000 was subscribed, the list being still open. We also learn that the Roman Catholic Bishop of the diocese has issued circulars to his clergy, directing them to collect means of every description in aid of the sufferers.

Of the deplorable loss of life which has been sustained, no exact estimate has yet been obtained.—Twelve bodies had been found when the latest advices came away, but there can be no doubt that the real extent of the loss must be far greater than the number in which the flames extended, many persons, particularly the young, the timid, and the sick, perished before they could well be aware of the danger, and were buried or consumed in the falling houses.

The pecuniary loss, the estimate is yet equally indefinite. But there can be no doubt that it amounts to a vast sum, and will be more severely felt from the great number of sufferers, the loss of insurance, and from the fact that a great portion of them were in a local Mutual Office, of which both insurers and insured are alike ruined.

At an adjourned meeting, we are informed that the editor of the Canadian, who has lost every thing he possessed, Mr. J. B. Biganette, a Magistrate, is injured, it is feared mortally.

We learn from an extra of the Montreal Herald, that the correspondent at Quebec had lost his life, which was the result of twelve years of age, "who being sick, was carried to the Palais, (the residence of the former Intendants) to which it was hoped at the time, the fire would not extend; but which, sad to say, was entirely consumed, there being, at the time, many sick persons in it, taken there for safety, and the most modern and complete to save."

The Canadian of Thursday, notwithstanding the suffering of its editor, contains full details of the catastrophe, but they add little to what we have communicated. It estimates the insurance at \$25,000 to \$30,000 in the Quebec, \$20,000 to \$30,000 in the Canada, and \$2500 in the London, France, and States also, that some of the bakers had inhumanly taken advantage of the demand for bread, to sell it at an extortionate price.

THE FIRE AT QUEBEC. The total loss has been computed with the utmost nicety, and found to be about one million and one million and a half of pounds!—or in dollars, from \$4,000,000 to \$6,000,000! The loss of life cannot be estimated.—Many private intimacies of the remains found by supposed relatives, had been made, and it was asserted that about forty victims of the conflagration had so far been inhumed, and that many, very many, will never be discovered.

The number of houses destroyed is 1630, beside out-houses, &c. In 15 of the 35 streets, the scenes of the fire, not a single house remains.

It is estimated that the sum of £7000 had been raised in Quebec, and about £5000 in Montreal. [Bee.]

THE MORMON TRIAL. On the 21st ult. the trial of persons charged with the murder of Hiram and Joe Smith, commenced at Carthage, Illinois. The prisoners, J. C. Davis, late an Illinois Senator, T. C. Sharp, editor of the Warsaw Signal, Mark Aldrich, Wm. N. Grover, and Col. Levi Williams, complained by affidavit of the partial manner in which the jurors had been selected, and prayed the Court that *Elisors* be appointed to select a jury, which the Court granted. The jury was not entirely unimpeached at the last accounts. A correspondent of the St. Louis Republican says:—

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